

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23-35 (a total of 30 claims) are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-13, 16, 17, 19-21, 25, 31-33 are amended and claim 3 is canceled (claims 14, 15, 18 and 22 were previously canceled).

In the office action dated January 27, 2005, the examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The examiner rejects to claims 1-12, 17, 20, and 25-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement; rejects claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrara, The KIM Query System – An Iconic Interface for the Unified Access to Distributed Multimedia Databases (“Ferrara”); and rejects claims 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,950,190 (“Yeager”), in view of Ferrara. The examiner allows claims 34 and 35.

Drawings

The examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims; namely, requiring that the first input region and the second input region of claim 1 be shown in the drawings or canceled from the claims.

Applicant has removed all reference to a first input region and a second input region from all of the claims. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, 1st Paragraph

The examiner rejects claims 1-12, 17, 20, and 25-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The examiner characterizes these claims as containing subject matter not described in the specification to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention at the time of application filing.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-12, 17, 20, and 25-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as claim language need not find literal support in the original specification, and original claims may be relied upon to satisfy the written description requirement. However, although applicant does not agree that use of the subject recitations results in a failure to comply with the written description requirement, applicant has amended the referenced claims to employ alternative, equivalent language. Accordingly, the following features have been removed from the subject claims (and all claims):

- 1) first input region
- 2) second input region
- 3) configuring at least a portion of the ... user interface
- 4) first part of a graphical user interface
- 5) second part of a graphical user interface
- 6) table-style interface window
- 7) a table within a first window
- 8) constant input field
- 9) adaptive input field

In view of the foregoing, applicant has addressed all of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, concerns articulated in the office action. In making the above-referenced claim amendments, applicant focused on a consistency in term use between the specification and

the claims, as requested by the examiner. Accordingly, applicant requests that the examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

The examiner rejects claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrara, The KIM Query System – An Iconic Interface for the Unified Access to Distributed Multimedia Databases (“Ferrara”). Regarding claim 13, the examiner refers to the abstract, Figures 1-3, and pages 30-31 and 35 to support that Ferrara teaches “receiving information regarding one or more query properties from one or more of the search providers,” and “communicating a query, using a user interface configured to based on one or more of the received query properties....” Regarding claims 19, the examiner refers to the Figures 1-3 and page 35 to support that Ferrara teaches “means for communicating queries, with a user interface configured based on the determined query properties...”

Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner’s rejection of claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Ferrara does not disclose each and every element set forth in the claims 13 and 19 as amended. For instance, Ferrara does not disclose, teach or suggest, among other things, communicating a query to one or more of the search providers using a user interface that includes the information received regarding the one or more query properties in input fields that define the query communicated.

Rather, Ferrara teaches an application interface including a homogenous language that is an extension of SQL. Ferrara’s information manager purports a capability to accept requests in this homogenous language and to translate the language request into the specific language of the involved database. Ferrara, however, does not disclose, teach, or suggest the reception of query property information from the one or more search providers, and the

inclusion of the information in input fields of a user interface used to define a query of the search providers.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The examiner rejects claims 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,950,190 (“Yeager”) in view of Ferrara. The examiner believes that it would be obvious to combine the references of Yeager and Ferrara because Ferrara shows how the compatible dynamic interface of Yeager would be able to distribute data to more than one provider.

Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner’s rejection of claims 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as applicant denies that a prima facie case of obviousness has been established. Applicant contends that the examiner's rejection fails to address all of the features of the rejected claims, and is conclusory, without adequate justification existing in Yeager, in view of Ferrara, to substantiate a §103 rejection. Neither Yeager nor Ferrara disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, all of the features of claims 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24, as amended.

Regarding claim 16, neither Yeager nor Ferrara disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, transforming the parse tree representation of the query to target the second one of search providers by incorporating query properties requested of, received from, and regarding the second one of the search providers.

Regarding claim 20, the references fail to disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, an interface adapted to communicate information regarding query definition

forms received from one or more of the search providers to a graphical user interface that incorporates the information into input fields used to define queries to be transmitted to the two or more search providers.

Regarding claim 21, the references fail to disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a user interface including in query definition input fields unique query operators and query definition fields supported by one or more search providers by receiving information from each search provider identifying its unique query operators and query definition fields, then processing a query by passing the information regarding the unique query operators and query-definition fields to at least one of the search providers.

Regarding claim 23, the references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest displaying the unique query operators or query-definition fields received from the one or more search providers within the user interface during query definition.

Claim 24 depends from claim 21, and is therefore patentable for at the reasons detailed above for claim 21. Accordingly, and for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

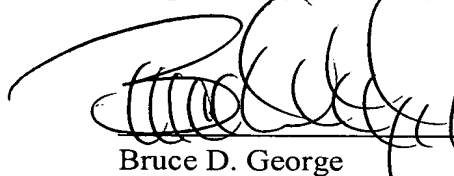
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23-35 (a total of 30 claims) are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce D. George', is written over a horizontal line.

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